

## Member Spotlight: Andrew Marks, CGMP



We're excited to shine this month's Member Spotlight on **Andrew Marks, CGMP**, Assistant Director of Tourism for the City of Lynchburg's Office of Economic Development & Tourism!

### Meet Andrew

Andrew is based in **Lynchburg, VA**, and you can reach him at [andrew.marks@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:andrew.marks@lynchburgva.gov).

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3-minute read

### SGMP Involvement

#### How long have you been a member of SGMP?

Andrew joined SGMP in **2017**.

#### What inspired you to join the Old Dominion Chapter?

As Andrew puts it, he didn't choose SGMP - SGMP chose him. When he began his job at City of Lynchburg, he was told to take over the membership. Luckily, it turned out to be a perfect fit. He found a professional family and lifelong connections.

#### What roles have you served in?

Andrew has been on the Chapter Board since 2018. He served as **Treasurer** from 2018–2023 and has been **Second Vice President** since 2023. He has also co-chaired the Communications Committee, currently chairs the Education Committee, and has supported the Chapter Education Conference Committee many times.

#### A favorite SGMP memory?

NEC in Norfolk in 2018 stands out - it's where Andrew truly bonded with other members and felt himself becoming a real part of the chapter.

### Professional Background

#### How long have you worked in hospitality?

Andrew's been in the hospitality world for nearly **26 years**. He started out in restaurants, moved into hotels in 2008, and joined the City of Lynchburg's tourism team in 2017.

#### What do you love most about your current role?

He enjoys leading all things tourism and helping create the best possible experience for Lynchburg's visitors.

#### How did you get your start in this field?

Believe it or not, Andrew originally earned a **Bachelor of Music** and planned to become a band director. After a long-term substitute teaching job in music and choir, he realized the classroom wasn't his calling. Then the hotel world caught his attention—and that's where he found his passion

for helping others and creating memorable experiences. Over time, that passion led him to serve the entire city.

### **A professional accomplishment you're proud of?**

Andrew is proud of his growth within the City of Lynchburg, moving from **Tourism Sales Coordinator**, to **Sales Manager**, to **Assistant Director of Tourism** in just 7½ years.

### **Fun Facts & Personal Interests**

#### **What do you enjoy outside of work?**

Andrew loves reading (12 books and counting in 2026 already), traveling, hanging out with friends, and hosting game nights.

#### **Favorite travel destination?**

Gatlinburg, Tennessee, tops his list. The vibe keeps him and his friends returning several times a year.

#### **Something people might not know about you?**

Andrew was the **Field Commander/Drum Major** of his college marching band for four years. He also taught Color Guard and participated in Indoor Guard. The Marching Arts? He's all in.

#### **Favorite quote?**

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney

### **Final Thoughts**

#### **What advice do you have for newcomers to SGMP or the meetings industry?**

Take your time getting to know people. Sales goals matter, but strong relationships are what make this industry thrive.

#### **Anything else you'd like to share?**

Get involved! Don't wait for others to create your chapter experience. Your **Return on Involvement (ROI)** will bring you more joy than you expect.